

The Purchase Price

OR
THE CAUSE OF
COMPROMISE

By
EMERSON HOUGH

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(Continued.)
"Then let's not make the worst mistake of all," she said.

"But we could do so much!"—
She turned upon him suddenly, pale, excited. "Do not!" she cried. "Do not use those words! It seems to me that that is what all men think and say. How much we could do—together! Do not say that to me."

"Captain," she said easily, "my lieutenant, my friend, let me say—I will not be specific—I will not mention names or dates; but do you think, if



"You ought to have won!"

you were a woman, you could ever marry a man who once behind your back, with not even eagerness to invite him, but coolly, deliberately, had played a game of cards for you?"

He stiffened as though stung. "I know. But you misunderstand. I did not play for you. I played to relieve a situation—because I thought you wished—because it seemed the solution of a situation hard for both of us. I thought—"

"Solution!" She blazed up now, tiger-like, and her words came through sharp lips. "I'd never have told you I knew if you hadn't said what you have. But a solution, a plan, a compromise! You don't have played for me! You ought to have played for me, and you ought to have won—have you?"

He stood before a woman new to him, one so different from the grateful and gracious enthusiast he had met all these months that he could not comprehend the change—could not at once adjust his confused senses. So miserable was he that suddenly, with one of her swift changes, she smiled at him, even through her sudden tears. "No, no!" she exclaimed. "See! Look here!"

She handed him a little sheet of crumpled note paper, inscribed in a cramped hand, showed him the inscription—"Jeanne Fournier."

"See, Jeanne is writing to me again. Don't you see, there's a baby, and it is named for me—who has none. Good-by, that money!"—she kissed her hand to the air—"goodby, that idea, that dream of mine! That's of no consequence. In fact, nothing is of consequence. See, this is the baby of Jeanne."

"Why, then, should I delay? Why, I have not failed at all! Have I not cared for and brought up this Jeanne, and is there not a baby of Jeanne, a baby whom she has named for me?"

Carlisle, mute and unnoticed, indeed, as he felt almost forgotten, was relieved when there came a knock at the door. A messenger bearing a card entered. She turned toward him gravely, and he could only read dismissal now. Mute and unhappy, he hurried from the room. He did not, however, pass from the stage of activity he had chosen. He later fought for his convictions and saw accomplished, before, with so many other brave men, he fell upon the field of battle—accomplished at vast cost of blood and tears—that work which he had been inspired to undertake in a more futile form.

"You may say to this gentleman that I shall join him presently in the parlor at the right of the stairs," said Josephine St. Auban, after a moment, to the messenger.

CHAPTER XVII. In Acknowledgment.

AS she entered the room there rose to meet her a tall gentleman, who stood gravely regarding her. At sight of him she paused, embarrassed. No figure was more familiar in Washington, yet none was less to be expected here.

"You know me, madam?" he demanded in a deep and bell-like voice. "I know you as well. I am delighted. I am honored, to announce that I come to you as a messenger. It is the wish of a certain gentleman to have you attend a little meeting which will not welcome many out of all this city. It is informal and unofficial, my dear lady, but all those who will be there will be glad to have your attendance."

"It is a command, sir. Very well, at what time, then?"

"If it should please you, my carriage is waiting now."

Josephine St. Auban did not lack decision upon her own part. Something told her that no danger this time lurked for her.

"Pardon me for just one moment, then, sir," she answered. A few moments later she returned, better prepared for the occasion with just a touch to her toilet and with a paper or two which with some instinct she hastily snatched up from her desk. These latter she hurriedly crowded into her little reticule. They took the carriage and soon were passing through the streets toward the most public portion of the city of Washington.

They entered wide grounds and drew up before a stately building which lay well back from the street. Entering, they passed through a narrow hall, thence into a greater room. There was a long table in this room, and about it, some of them not wholly visible in the rather dim light, there were several gentlemen. As her tall escort entered with a word of announcement all of these rose, grave and silent, and courteously bowed to her. There approached from the head of the room a tall, handsome and urbane gentleman, who came and took her hand.

"My dear lady," he began, in a voice whose low, modulated tones scarce could fail to please any ear. "I thank you for your presence here. Will you not be seated?"

Josephine St. Auban curtsied and, remaining silent and wondering, assumed the seat assigned her.

"We meet absolutely without formality, my dear madam," went on the tall and kindly man who had greeted her. "What goes on here is entirely unofficial and, as I need not say, it is altogether private, as you will remember."

"You, of course, are not unaware of the popular discontent which exists on this or the other side of the great political question in America today. We are advised that you yourself have been a traveler in our western districts, and it seemed to us likely that you might be possessed of information regarding matters there of which we get only more interested, more purely partisan reports."

"That is not impossible," was her guarded reply. "It is true I have talked with some in that part of the country."

"You were witness of the anxiety of our attempt to keep war and the talk of it far in the background—our desire to preserve the present state of peace."

"Assuredly. But, sir, you will forgive me—I do not believe peace will last. I thought so until this very day. In my belief now, there will be war. It cannot be averted. To me this calm is something which cannot endure. I myself at one time thought it could endure, but only if all the blacks were bought, paid for and deported, to make room for those who come at no cost to us. I thought for a time it could be done. I have tried to do it. I have failed. I do not think others will follow in my attempt."

"We have not undervalued, madam, either the brilliance or the profundity of your own active intellect! What you say is of interest. To be frank with you, you have, as we just have said, been much concerned of late with attempts at the colonization and deportation of negroes from this country. Precisely such was once my own plan. My counselors dissuaded me. I lacked your courage."

"There seemed no other way," she broke in hurriedly, her convictions conquering her timidity. "I wanted so much to do something—not alone for these blacks—but something for the good of America, the good of the world. And I failed, today."

"The work of the colonization society has gone on for many years," gently insisted the first speaker, raising a hand, "and made no serious complications. Your own work has been much bolder, and, to be frank, there have been complications. Oh, we do not criticize you. On the contrary, we have asked your presence here that we might understandingly converse on these things to which you have given so much attention."

"If I have erred," she ventured, "it has been done within the limitations of human wisdom; yet my convictions were absolutely sincere—at least I may assure you of so much. I have not wished to break any law, to violate convictions on either side. I only wanted to do some good in the world."

"We are quite sure, my dear lady, that the sentiments of your mind are precisely those of our own. But perhaps you may be less aware than ourselves of complications which may arise. Our friend who sits by you has found occasion to write again in unmeasured terms to the representatives of Austria. We are advised of your affiliations with the Hungarian movement—in short, we are perhaps better advised of your movements than you yourself are aware. We know of these blacks which have been purchased and deported by your agents, but we also know that large numbers of slaves have been enticed away from their owners, that whole plantations have been robbed of their owners, and have been under the protection—indeed, under the very name—of this attempt which you have set on foot. Has this been done by your knowledge, madam? I anticipate your answer. I am sure that it is not."

"No, no," she rejoined. "I have spent my own funds in this matter, and I have told my own agents to do nothing in the slightest contravention of the laws. But you have watched me! I have been!"

"This is a simple and democratic country, madam," was the quiet answer, although perhaps there might have been the trace of a smile on the close set mouth of the speaker. "We do not spy on any one. Your acts have been quite within public knowledge. You yourself have not sought to leave them secret. There is no need of apprehension on your part. Let us assure you of that at once. We are glad that you, whom we recognize as the moving spirit in this deportation enterprise, have not sanctioned certain of the acts of your agents. There was one—a former army officer—with whom I labored a revolutionist, a German recently from Europe. Is it not so?"

"It is true," she assented. "They were my chief agents. But as for that officer, this country has none more eager to offer his sword to the flag when the time shall come. I am sure it is but his zeal which has caused offense. I would plead for his reinstatement. He may have been indiscreet."

"We all listen to what you say. But in addition to these there was a former slave girl who has been somewhat prominent in meetings which these two have carried on in different parts of the country. The words of the southern press, this girl has been used as a decoy."

"Lily!" exclaimed Josephine. "It must have been she! Yes, I had such a person in my employ—in my humble capacity. But, sir, I assure you I have not seen her for more than two months. I had supposed her busy with these others on the lecture platform."

"She is not now so engaged," interrupted a voice from the shadows on the other side of the table.

"Then she has been arrested?" demanded Josephine.

"That is not the term. Yet it is true that she sailed on one of your own colonization ships last week. Her fortune will lie elsewhere hereafter. It was her own wish."

A sudden sense of helplessness smote upon Josephine St. Auban. Here, even in this republic, were great and silent powers with which the individual needed to contend.

"But, gentlemen," said she, as she held out in her hand some papers which cracked in her trembling grasp, "after all, we are at cross purposes. This is not necessary. My own work is at an end already! This very morning it came to an end, and forever. I have a report today from my agents in Europe. Gentlemen, since I must mention these things, I have been possessed of a fortune in my own name which might have been called considerable. I had estates in France and Austria. This advises me that my estates have been confiscated by the governments in both countries—they got word there, in some way."

"It was Hulsemann!" ejaculated the dark man, as to himself. "Austria's man never on."

She went on: "If I am not welcome in this country, whether shall I go? I am an exile as I stand before you. I am a widow. I have no living kin. Moreover, I am an exile, impoverished, as I stand. Here are my proofs."

She placed her papers in the hand of her escort, the nearest of these grave and silent men. A nod from the leader at the head of the table caused their all and dark gentleman to rise and seek a place closer to the window in order that he might find better light for reading. His glasses upon his nose, he scanned the papers gravely. A sudden smile broke out upon his face.

"Gentlemen," said he at length, quietly, "this lady has been kind to come to meet us, and you all are bearing at all upon their purpose. The right of way, stations, and rolling stock, where he had been employed, the methods of operation, etc., will come within their province. As each member of the committee has the right to keep a sharp watch for imperfections in either physical property or operation, and will report upon what he finds."

The division committee has a regular meeting twice a month. The members not only report upon their own observations, but transmit suggestions from employees. Sometimes, however, these suggestions come through the mail. They are always acknowledged, and the matters they refer to are carefully investigated. The more they know of the suggestion then receives a report as to just what has been done about it. Or, if it is not adopted he is told the reasons why."

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County Bar Association.
The annual banquet of the Litchfield County Bar Association was held Friday evening with about forty-five in attendance. The old officers were re-elected as follows: President, Donald R. Warner of Salisbury; vice president, Colonel W. B. Smith of Winsted; secretary and treasurer, D. C. Kilhearn of Litchfield; collector, Frank B. Munn of New Hartford; auditors, L. J. Nickerson of New Milford and R. F. Higgins of Winsted. The officers of the Litchfield County Law Library Association were also re-elected.

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Washington—In declining to allow a new organization to use his name, Gov.-elect Sulzer said no man's reputation is safe while he lives. He advised use of the name of a man dead a hundred years.

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S. A. Dyer, of Washington, D. C., writes: "I have suffered much from my kidneys and bladder for many years. I have tried many remedies, but have not found relief. I have now taken Foley Kidney Pills for some time and I am now free of all trouble and again able to do my work. I highly recommend them to all who suffer from kidney and bladder trouble."

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Stratford Ave. and Sixth St.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT, DISTRICT OF BRIDGEPORT, ss.
December 8th, 1912.
Estate of Peter Vetter, late of the town of Bridgeport in said District deceased.

The Court of Probate for the District of Bridgeport, hath limited and ordered that the next meeting of the Court for Creditors of said Estate to exhibit their claims for settlement, shall be held at the Court House in Bridgeport, on the 15th day of December, 1912, at 10 o'clock, A. M. All persons indebted to said Estate are requested to make immediate payment to

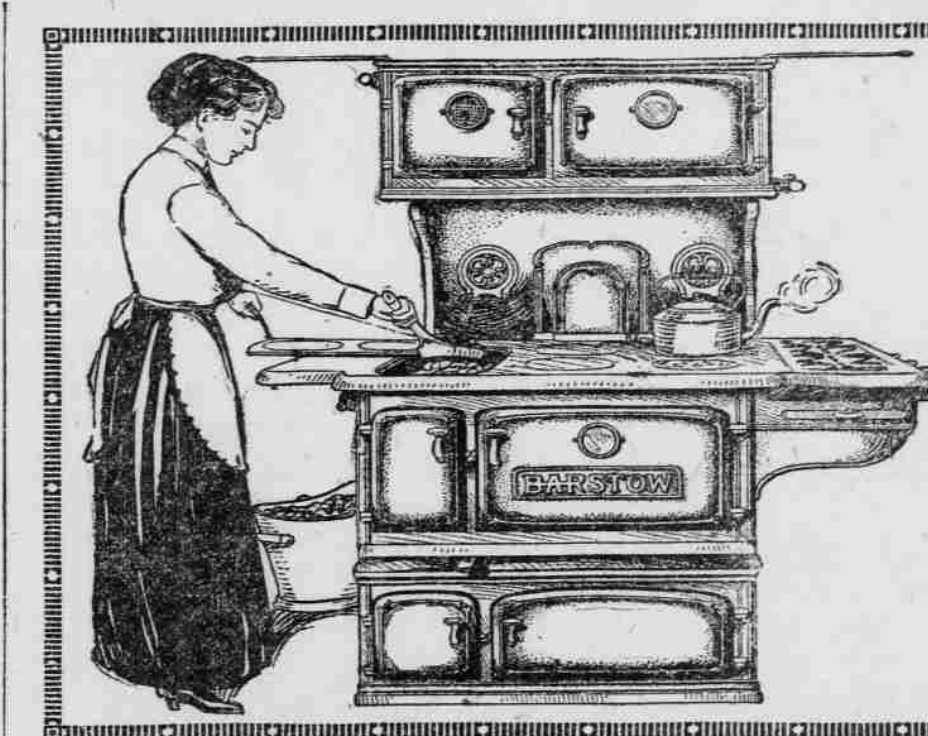
KATHARINA VETTER, Executrix.
277 Bridge St., Bridgeport, Conn.
T. 115 p

Kelley's Cigar Store
141 FAIRFIELD AVE.
The best cigars made in imported and domestic brands. Complete line of smokers' supplies.

JAMES H KELLY
SIDEWALKS
Sand and Gravel
THE BURNS CO.
82 FAIRFIELD AVENUE
BROKEN STONE, all sizes
ROOFING

Litchfield County News
A Missing Boy.
Mr. and Mrs. Platt Howard of Torrington are anxious to find a trace of their son, Roy, 16 years old, who has been missing since September 8, when he left the W. H. Miles farm in Goshen where he had been employed. The last heard of him was September 27, when he was registered as a lodger at the Waterbury police station. Filed for Probate.

The will of Stanley Woodruff was admitted to probate at Winsted, Monday. It bequeathed \$500 to the town of Winsted to maintain lots in



HOWLAND'S

If you want to make yourself a Christmas gift of four to ten dollars, read the Howland advertisement on Page 2, today.

There has been plenty of big news for men from the Howland clothing store, ever since it was opened. But there has been none so big as this.

Just read it. That is all we ask.

LEHIGH'S NEW SAFETY PLAN PROVES A SUCCESS

The "safety committees," composed of both employers and employees, turned out a thorough success on the Lehigh Valley Railroad. Enough time has now passed since they were established to show the value of this plan of co-operation in the prevention of accidents. The men in the ranks—engineers, firemen, conductors, trainmen, shopmen and track laborers—have entered into the scheme with even more enthusiasm than was expected, and they make suggestions that are of great value to the management.

There is a general safety committee and a committee for each division. Every branch of the service is represented on the division committee by one employee, the make-up being as follows: An engineer, a fireman, a conductor, a trainman, a switchman, an agent, and a foreman. On the general committee are the general manager, the superintendent of motive power, the maintenance of way engineer, and whatever other officers or employees the general manager may appoint.

Employees of the system are invited to make suggestions, and they have taken free advantage of the invitation. On each division the man who makes the best suggestion towards increased safety of operation, is rewarded by one month's vacation with pay, in addition to the protection of the system. Besides these prizes and distinctions, annual passes are granted employees with clear records for an entire year.

Thus there is provided a material incentive for the men, apart from the decreased risk of injury to themselves.

This committee work is supplementary to, not a substitute for, the existing provisions for the protection of passengers and employees. It is particularly effective in reducing the number of so-called "accident cases," though they do not attract great attention when they occur, are chiefly responsible for the total of any one year. They are largely the result of carelessness of one kind or another. "Familiarity breeds contempt" is proven true by the way in which employees begin to take chances when they have been in service some time. One of the most important features of the present arrangement is the attempt to impress upon railroad men the extent of suffering inflicted upon widows and orphans every year as the result of such accidents.

Abstract arguments against carelessness are quickly forgotten, but definite statistics of dead and injured are impressive; and from the figures of the Interstate Commerce Commission the safety committee knows that "taking chances" is mathematically certain to have a fatal result. Not to this particular individual, perhaps, but to some one else, and surely to one out of every so many.

Nothing will be too small for the Lehigh Valley division safety committee to take account of if it becomes bearing at all upon their purpose. The right of way, stations, and rolling stock, where he had been employed, the methods of operation, etc., will come within their province. As each member of the committee has the right to keep a sharp watch for imperfections in either physical property or operation, and will report upon what he finds.

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